

# **Triumvirate Environmental Incorporated**

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EPA ID Number: NYD077444263

## **Other (Former) Names of Site**

Chemical Waste Disposal

## **Site Description**

Triumvirate Environmental, Inc. (TEI) is located at 42-14 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Astoria, New York, and has been in continuous operation as a waste storage facility since 1964. TEI transports containerized and lab pack hazardous waste, PCB waste and solid waste from local off-site generators to its facility for short term storage prior to shipment to authorized recycling, treatment and disposal facilities. Hazardous waste is not generated, treated or disposed of at TEI.

The site is approximately 16,000 square feet and once consisted of an administrative building/warehouse and large outdoor concrete pad, used for loading, offloading and storage of wastes. This arrangement has been changed, as the concrete pad, which lacked structural integrity, was recently replaced with a completely enclosed storage facility.

Another company, Chemical Solvents & Distillers (CSD), operated along with Triumvirate Environmental (under its old name, Chemical Waste Disposal) at this site from 1964-1986, and contributed to the site contamination. CSD operated a number of distillation units for reclamation of solvent, and there were both accidental spills (which leaked through the cracked concrete pad), along with some intentional releases during that time.

## **Site Responsibility and Legal Instrument**

New York State Part 373 Hazardous Waste Management Permit addresses:

- the storage and management of hazardous waste in containers and lab packs;
- the closure of the sheet metal storage sheds and the construction of new storage facilities; and
- RCRA corrective action remedial investigation, corrective measures study, and interim corrective measures design submissions.

## **Permit Status**

A 6NYCRR Part 373 hazardous waste permit was issued on 9/28/93 and expired on 9/30/98. This permit has been extended as required by State law and will stay in effect until the issuance of a renewal permit, which is projected to be published for public review and comment in early 2004. The draft renewal permit addresses:

- the storage and management of hazardous waste in the new storage facilities;
- the operation and maintenance of the Interim Corrective Measure;
- the continued monitoring of the groundwater; and the assessment of indoor air for possible contamination from the subsurface.

## **Potential Threats and Contaminants**

The new proposed permit is likely to require further environmental investigation at Triumvirate, to clarify the extent of contamination on and off site.

Numerous chlorinated and non-chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polychlorinated biphenyls, have been detected in the unsaturated soils and groundwater at concentrations that exceed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation soil cleanup objectives and NYS groundwater quality protection standards, respectively. The VOCs detected included benzene, dichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, toluene, trichloroethane, trichloroethene, vinyl chloride and xylene.

### Water

The highest concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in groundwater monitoring wells on-site and immediately off-site. The wells located further off-site and across the street from Triumvirate Environmental (TEI) contained relatively low concentrations of VOCs. The data suggests that some of the contamination may be coming from a source other than TEI. The nearest surface waters are located about one quarter of a mile northeast, and have not been impacted by contaminated groundwater from the site. Trespassers would not be expected to come into contact with contaminated groundwater.

### Soil

The limited sampling done indicates that the contamination has not moved very far, if at all, from the site. The concrete loading and unloading area precludes direct or indirect contact with contaminated soils by employees or possible trespassers. Contaminated soils can serve as a source for contamination of groundwater, but it is expected that the air sparging/soil vapor extraction system that has been installed and will begin operation in November 2003 (see Cleanup, below) will address this threat.

### Air

Indoor air sampling conducted during 2003 showed several air samples of trichloroethene that were elevated above background but well below occupational exposure standards. Employees have been notified of these sampling results, and further sampling will be conducted over the next year. Available data does not support the idea of nearby structures' indoor air being affected by contamination from the Triumvirate Environmental site. Outdoor air has not been shown to be affected by contamination at the site.

Workers sampling and managing contaminated media do so following an appropriate health and safety plan.

## **Cleanup Approach and Progress**

Triumvirate Environmental, Inc. is located in the Borough of Queens, which is connected to the New York City water supply system. Therefore, contaminated groundwater is not used for any purpose onsite or off-site. However, the State considers all its groundwater to be a potential source of potable water and thus mandates it to be remediated to groundwater quality protection standards.

Total renovation of the old facility was completed in 2002, and the new structure includes separate vaulting and a fire suppression system. The construction of an interim corrective measure is complete, which includes:

- a groundwater air sparging/vacuum extraction system to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the groundwater and saturated soils, and
- a vacuum extraction system for removing VOCs from the unsaturated soils.

This interim corrective measure (ICM) should be operating by winter 2003. Groundwater monitoring will continue to assess the performance of the ICM and determine if natural attenuation is an acceptable remedy for the remainder of the groundwater contamination.

## **Site Repository**

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in this site fact sheet are available for public review at:

NYSDEC - Albany  
Bureau of Radiation and Hazardous Site Management  
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7252